



# Mayor's Youth Council

## Fact Sheet

### 2022-2023

#### What is the Mayor's Youth Council?

Founded in 2002, the Mayor's Youth Council (MYC) was created to increase awareness and involvement of Cheyenne's youth in city government and in the community at large. Members receive hands-on experience in local government by meeting with the Mayor and attending City Council meetings. Youth Council members also gain leadership, networking, and civic trusteeship skills by planning projects in conjunction with City staff and community partners. Special presentations and trips to City facilities round out the curriculum.

#### Benefits to You:

- Establish networks that benefit your future
- Gain experience that colleges and employers recognize on applications
- Make new friends
- Learn job and life skills that set you apart from other students
- Provide input on programs, services and events offered for your age group
- Learn the inner workings of City government
- Meet one-on-one with the Mayor and City Council

#### Criteria

Youth selected to serve must attend school and/or reside in Cheyenne, WY. Applicants must be in grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> to apply.

#### How many members serve on the Youth Council?

Up to fourteen (14) seats are available on the MYC. Each year, members are interviewed and selected by the Selection Committee before the end of the school year.

#### Membership Terms

Each appointed member makes a commitment to serve for one school calendar year from August 2022-May 2023. Terms are renewable and members may be re-appointed from year to year. Members are encouraged to reapply from year to year, as the curriculum explores different topics and city departments each year to help provide a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of city government. New and returning members have the opportunity to develop lifelong leadership skills, build networks and gain additional hands-on experience in local government. Ultimately, we hope to provide you with knowledge and a skill set that will benefit not only your academic career, but your work and life in the future.

#### How are applicants selected?

The first step is to complete and submit the application to the Office of Youth Alternatives, 1328 Talbot Court, or email to [dpaiz@cheyennecity.org](mailto:dpaiz@cheyennecity.org) by 4:00 PM on Friday, April 29, 2022. The Selection Committee will review applications and interview candidates in May 2022. Successful applicants will be notified in writing in May 2022. In the event that a selected candidate is unable to fulfill his/her term, an alternate is named as that person's replacement. Members are officially appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the City Council in the fall after the new term begins.

## When are meetings held?

The MYC holds at least two (2) meetings or programs each month on alternating Tuesdays from 3:30-4:45 PM. Additionally, LCSD #1 Early Release or No Class days may be utilized as additional meeting dates to accommodate field trips and special programming. Members will attend at least two (2) City Council meetings during their term to learn about the City Council meeting process. Members must commit 4-8 hours a month to the meetings, field trips and related activities. The MYC maintains a strict attendance policy and members may miss no more than four (4) meetings during the year. COVID-19 protocols are followed to ensure the students' safety and meetings are held by Zoom when necessary.

## Who Provides Oversight of the MYC?

The Office of Youth Alternatives (OYA) is the City organization that provides a staff advisor to oversee the coordination and workings of the group. OYA has served Cheyenne's youth and families with a variety of intervention and prevention services since the early 1970's, including family counseling, juvenile court services, mentoring, crisis intervention, and after-school programming, to name a few. To learn more about the OYA, visit [www.youthalternatives.net](http://www.youthalternatives.net).

## For More Information:

Contact Devyan Paiz, MYC Staff Advisor, at 637-6480, [dpaiz@cheyennecity.org](mailto:dpaiz@cheyennecity.org).

